The Uplifted Face

THE UPLIFTED FACE.

Job 11:15 Surely then shalt thou lift up thy face without spot.

This service of Communion and Fellowship prompted by and dedicated to Mr. Weir.

Text chosen from Job, the perfect and upright man. Zophar's advice to Job, not very comforting and not altogether true to the facts of life, nevertheless containing much truth, bits of it worth our consideration.

Read.

Our text a picture. The madonna with the uplifte face. A pose, perhaps. Here is one that is not a pose A child looking up to its mother or father . The likeness is unto a child in Christ looking into the face of his Heavenly Father. This picture expresses the attitude of a soul at peace with God and is suggestive of a number of things worthy of our consideration on a Communion Sunday morning.

I. The uplifted face expressess confidence and trust.

Have you ever sensed the difference between going to a person in full confidance and going to him with distrust and doubt? When a child has done somethin naughty, he cannot look into his father's face squarely It is just the same with us grown-ups, when we are not living the life we know God wants us to live, we cannot face God squarely. We have doubts and misgivings because of our own guilty conscience.

And sometimes it works just the other way arou around. Our lack of condicende in a person may be because of that person himself. We just cannot trust him And sometimes God s children look up to Him in just the same way. We cannot understand why God has done so- a and -so to us, then doubt and simgiving set in and we cannot look God squarely in the face.

The uplifted face of confidence means everything, both to the one whose face it is and to the one to whom it is uplifted.

II. The uplifted face is indicative of fellowship.

With those who know and love us and whom we know and love we crave fellowship and companionship. Trust and confidence between such is not easily broken. They live for each other, yes, they live in each other. To know God intimately and to have Hime for a companion makes the uplifted face, not a pose, but a most natural setting. The attitude of the soul becomes Godward.

2.
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I II. Such an uplifted face of trust and fellowship fills the heart with contentment and happiness.

When we are in trouble, or in deep thot, of in sorrow, or in shame, how do we look, up or down? We look down. We look down to our duty and our work. Looking down is alright and necessary, but when we always look down and never look up, then we grow unhappy and melancholy.

A woman who had lost her first-born babe settled down into a fixed state of melancholy and could not be comforted. A fried advised her to look up to the skies ~~at least~~ ~~[illegible]~~ often every day. Shortly afterwards she went to her friend with a smile and testified that looking up broke the spell of melancholy.

We must learn to look up. It brings freedom and cheer and hope. Gaze upon the hills and the trees and the stars stars and the blue heavens. They will calm you and comfort you

David in exile exclaimed, "I will lo~~a~~k to the mts whence cometh my help. He referred to the temple at Jerusalem and all that it meant to him. Fellowship with God, worship, relig on, is the soul's looking up without spot into the Infinite, realizing the goodness and love of God.

IV. The uplifed pace without spot implies purity.

Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God. Cleanse your face, your heart, your mind,- cultivate purity and it will become easy for you to lift up your face unto God.

V. When the face is uplifted without spot it grows beautiful.

We turn to our Heavenly Father in the beauty of holiness. Holiness transforms and transfigures men: it brightens the eye, quickens the step, exalts the life, cures heart-ache, banishes bitterness, and satisfies the soul with good things. The Xn grows lovely by just loving- God and man. Thus we are changed from glory to glory, by the Spirit of God, into the likeness of the One who is altogether lovely, even Jesus Christ.

Setting our hearts aright by putting all unrighteousness aside let us lift our faces unto God without spot; then in all confidence and fellowship and joy and purity and beauty we shall be exalted and blessed of God until He can use us as a means of greater blessing to others.